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Belgian Ex-Nazi Admits Working For U.S. Intelligence After 1945

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VIENNA, Dec. 22 (Reuters) — Robert Jan Verbelen, a former Belgian Nazi leader, admitted today that he was a spy for the United States in Vienna for eight years after World War II, heading a network of 100 agents.

His statement in an interview followed an accusation Wednesday by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in New York that he was employed by United States Army counter-intelligence in Austria from 1947 to 1955. The League made the accusation after getting access to United States Government documents under the Freedom of Information Act.

Mr. Verbelen, who is 72 years old, said the espionage network he headed worked for American military counter-intelligence from 1947 to 1955 while Vienna was jointly governed by the United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union.

Mr. Verbelen denied that during the

war he had ever tortured two American pilots, as the Anti-Defamation League asserted yesterday, or that he had ever committed any war crimes.

In 1966 the Austrian Supreme Court acquitted Mr. Verbelen of war crimes charges, although the Anti-Defamation said he was sentenced to death in absentia by a Belgian military court that said he had committed 67 war crimes, including mass murder and torturing the pilots.

He added: "I never received a penny for the work. I did it to help stave off the Soviet threat."

U.S. Has No Comment

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22 — Mark Sheehan, a spokesman for the Justice Department, said today that the department would have no comment on the Verbelen case.